

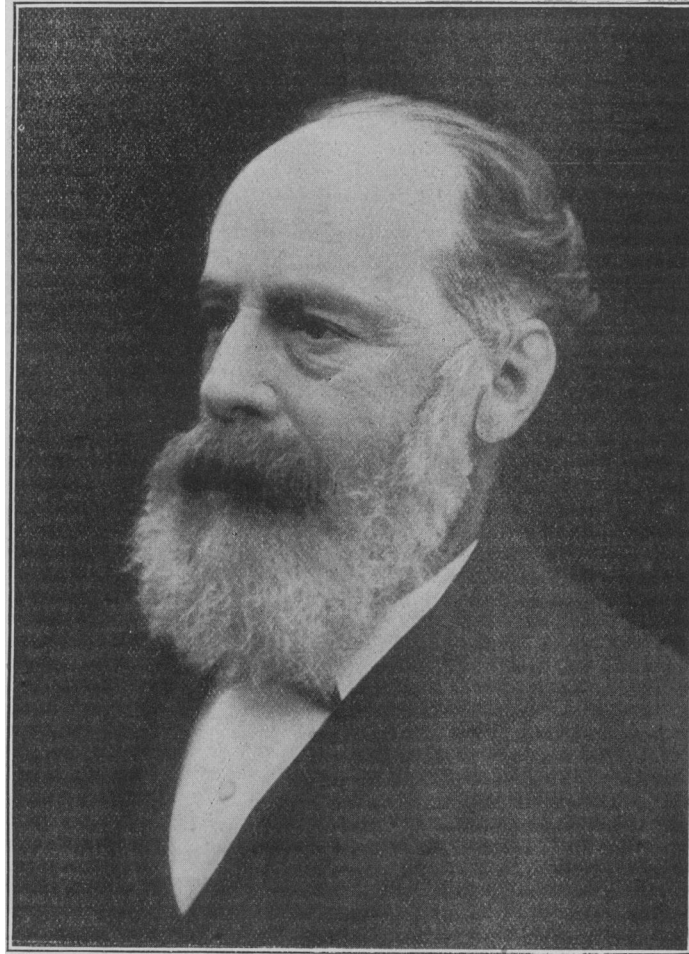
OBITUARY.

EDWARD ROBERT BICKERSTETH, F.R.C.S.,
LIVERPOOL.

THE death of Mr. Edward Robert Bickersteth, which took place at his residence, 2, Rodney Street, on Saturday, March 7th, removes one who for more than half a century has been a prominent figure in Liverpool, and was for many years one of the most eminent operating surgeons in the North of England. The family to which the deceased gentleman belonged has been connected for several generations with Lancashire, and of recent years its members have risen to more than ordinary distinction in the Church, at the Bar, and in Medicine. His grandfather, a medical practitioner of Kirby Lonsdale, had four sons. Of these one entered the Church, and his son became Bishop of Exeter; another went to the Bar, rose to be Master of the Rolls, and was created Lord Langdale; a third son also entered the Church, and was father of the late Dean of Lichfield and of the late Bishop of Ripon; while the fourth son, Robert, father of the subject of the present memoir, entered the medical profession. Settling in Liverpool, he was in the year 1811 appointed one of the Surgeons to the Infirmary, not yet entitled Royal, at that time located in Shaw's Brow. He remained on the staff of the Royal Infirmary till 1853, when he retired and was appointed Consulting Surgeon, and he died in 1857. He acquired an extensive practice and enjoyed a distinguished position as a surgeon. Early in his career he built No. 2, Rodney Street, and there the subject of the present memoir was born in 1828.

Mr. Edward Bickersteth was carefully educated for his father's profession, and began his medical studies in the Liverpool Royal Infirmary School in 1845, afterwards, as was the custom at that day, carrying them on in London, Dublin, Edinburgh, and Paris. After obtaining his diploma as Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1851, he returned to Edinburgh, and renewed his acquaintance with many of the celebrated teachers who then adorned the university of that city, and whose world-wide reputation combined to make the Scottish capital at that time the leading centre of medical and surgical instruction. He had the honour of being chosen house-surgeon by Syme, and held the office for upwards of a year, enjoying the advantage of Syme's personal friendship, and the opportunity of taking part in his private as well as his hospital practice. It was to that great master that he afterwards acknowledged himself to be indebted for the inspiration which had guided him towards the love of surgery. In 1852 he began general practice in Liverpool, according to the custom almost invariable in the provinces at that time, but his predilection for surgery was so strong that in 1857, finding no surgical appointment vacant, he established a private hospital, which attracted considerable attention from the public and the profession, and led

to his appointment, the same year, at the early age of 28, as Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary. During the long period of nearly thirty-two years that he remained on the staff of that institution he took a leading part in the practice and the teaching, his Monday out-patient clinics being one of the most highly appreciated events of the week. Always on the look-out for improvement and advance in the science and art of surgery, it is not surprising that he was one of the first to appreciate and adopt the antiseptic system as it became evolved by his friend and former fellow-student, Lord Lister. In 1870 he reported 3 cases successfully operated on by the antiseptic method, in one of which the knee-joint was twice opened for the removal of loose bodies. One case was a popliteal aneurysm in which after failure to cure by compression the femoral artery was tied with carbolized catgut. He was early impressed with the value of absorbable ligatures, and in April, 1868, he successfully secured the spermatic artery with magnesium wire in a case of castration. A memorable day was April 3rd, 1869, when Lord Lister's "Observations on ligature of arteries on the antiseptic system" appeared in the *Lancet*, announcing the discovery of "an antiseptic animal ligature which, applied to an artery, virtually surrounded it with a ring of living tissue, which actually strengthened the vessel where it obstructed it." The ligature had only been tried on the calf, but Mr. Bickersteth's attention having been drawn to the article he decided to try the new ligature on two patients then in his wards, one a man with aneurysm of the femoral and the other with aneurysm of the carotid artery. Some catgut was at once obtained and prepared by Lister's method, and on April 6th, three days after the publication of the paper, Mr. Bickersteth had the honour of being the first to employ Lister's carbolized catgut ligature on the human subject, and he had the satisfaction of recording a few weeks later that both patients had left the infirmary well. The



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present generation of surgeons, who have had no acquaintance with the anxious process of separation of ligatures and the risk of secondary hæmorrhage, can hardly realize the tremendous advance in surgery of which these two cases were the first fruits.

He held the position of Lecturer on the Principles and Practice of Surgery in the old medical school. In 1873 he made unsuccessful application for the vacant Chair of Clinical Surgery in Edinburgh, and had the highest testimony from Lord Lister, and a most cordial tribute to his merits from the Liverpool School, the five signatories including the present Lord Mayor of Liverpool (Dr. Caton) and Mr. Reginald Harrison, whose lamented death we recorded only last week.

Mr. Bickersteth was in every sense a successful surgeon. As an operator he was admittedly *facile princeps*; his name was for many years a household word in Liverpool and the surrounding districts; he enjoyed a large and lucrative private practice, and was extremely popular with his patients. He was always deeply interested in the Royal

Infirmity, of which he was a generous supporter, and since his retirement from the active staff, besides being consulting surgeon, he had held the office of President for a year, and had for a long time been a member of the general committee.

Mr. Bickersteth married the sister of his fellow-student, the late Charles Murchison, and is survived by his wife. He leaves two sons and three daughters. The eldest son is Surgeon to the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, being the third of the name to hold that office. One of his daughters is married to Dr. George R. Murray of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

An indefatigable worker while on duty, he always took a long summer holiday, which he generally spent on his own yacht. Some twenty years ago he purchased the estate of Craig-y-don in Anglesea, where he had since resided a great part of the year. He always enjoyed excellent health until recently, but for the last five months he had been confined to the house, seriously ill for most of the time.

He was elected President of the Medical Institution in 1870, and was President of the Surgical Section of the British Medical Association when it met in Liverpool in 1883.

Dr. AUGUSTUS CON-STABLE MAYBURY, formerly of Heathcote Street, W.C., died at his residence in Chelsea on February 16th in the 65th year of his age. The eldest son of the late Dr. William Augustus Maybury, he received his general education at the City of London School, and entered St. Thomas's Hospital as the winner of a scholarship entitling him to perpetual attendance. His student career was one of industry and great distinction, especially in connexion with the sciences only indirectly connected with medicine. In 1866 he became M.R.C.S., L.S.A., but already at that time had won the degree of Bachelor of Science at London University, taking honours at the examination in several subjects. He had also been named an Associate of the Royal College of Mines. This he entered with a Royal Exhibition awarded by the Science and Art Department, South Kensington, and there he obtained many medals and other prizes. In 1873 he proceeded to what was at that time a rare degree—the D.Sc. London. In his early life he held several medical appointments, including that of Registrar of the London Fever Hospital, and the Resident Medical Officership of the Farringdon Dispensary, and of the Chelsea, Brompton, and Belgrave Dispensary, but the greater part of his life was spent in lecturing and tutorial work. For this he possessed very marked talent, and it was an occupation entirely congenial to him. At one time and another he held many posts of this character, among others the Professorship of Chemistry at the City of London College, and at the Charterhouse Science School and Polytechnic; he also lectured to the matriculation class at St. Thomas's Hospital and devoted much time to private work in the same connexion, only giving it up a year or two ago when his health began to fail. Besides being a man of much kindness of heart, always ready to assist those who sought his counsel or other services,

the versatility of his knowledge made him an exceedingly pleasant companion, especially on the pedestrian excursions to which he was devoted, and which he turned for his friends into illuminating nature studies. He was an omnivorous reader, and besides one or two textbooks for students, had published a translation of some of the works of Ovid.

SIR ALFRED COOPER, KT., F.R.C.S. ENG., F.R.C.S. EDIN.,
CONSULTING SURGEON TO THE WEST LONDON AND
ST. MARK'S HOSPITALS.

THIS well-known surgeon, so popular in the fashionable world, died in the first week of this month in the Riviera, where he had been condemned to spend the winter owing to rapidly-failing health. His father was in his days a legal luminary, Mr. W. Cooper, B.A. Oxon., who became Recorder of Norwich. Alfred Cooper was educated at Merchant Taylors School, and was afterwards apprenticed

to Peter Nichols, an eminent surgeon, once on the staff of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, at which institution Cooper was in constant attendance on Nichols during his term of apprenticeship.

In 1858 Alfred Cooper became a student at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and qualified as a Member of the College of Surgeons in 1861. He did not fill any of the house-staff appointments at the hospital, but, determining to perfect his surgical education so far as was within his means, he went through a course of operative surgery in Paris, his companion from the great City hospital being Sir Thomas Smith. In 1868 he obtained the diploma of Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh. With the College at Lincoln's Inn he was, as will be seen, destined to be more closely associated. Soon after qualifying as Member, he was chosen as Prosecutor to the Court of Examiners, which shows that he had a reputation for skill in dissection.

After qualification, Cooper set up in practice in Jermyn Street

and made little headway at first. One evening, however, he was called in by chance to see a rich man in the immediate vicinity of his consulting room, and the patient was so satisfied with young Cooper's appearance, manner and treatment, that he gave him the benefit of his patronage. Cooper soon afterwards began to prosper, his geniality and tact being powerful factors in his favour. He became well known in West End clubs and popular as a Freemason. Already when practising in Jermyn Street he was appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Inn's of Court Royal Volunteers, the far-famed "Devil's Own." A former comrade testifies, in a recent number of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, to the personal charm and professional reputation for which Cooper was already distinguished in those days nearly forty-five years past. Later on Cooper held the appointment of Surgeon to the Duke of York's Loyal Suffolk Hussars.

Early in his professional career Cooper gained another friend, the late Duke of Hamilton. Through this friendship he was introduced into high society, for which he